CLAIMS

[1] A plant cultivating substrate which is formed by reacting at least water-retentive filling material, water, urethane prepolymer and polyol.

[2] The plant cultivating substrate according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of said water-retentive filling material under dry condition there of is from 15 to 60 wt.%.

[3] The plant cultivating substrate according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said polyol comprises a polyol containing an ester group.

[4] A method of manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate by reacting and curing a suspension containing water-retentive filling material, water and urethane prepolymer,

wherein said suspension contains polyol, the method preparing the suspension such that a ratio of said water-retentive filling material under dry condition there of is from 15 to 60 wt.% and then reacting and curing the resultant suspension containing the polyol, thus obtaining the plant cultivating substrate.

[5] The method manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate according to claim 4, wherein an amount of said polyol is from 0.1 to 300 weight parts, relative to 100 weight parts of said water-retentive filling material under the dry condition thereof.

[6] The method manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate according to claim 4 or 5, comprising a first step of preparing a first suspension by stirring/mixing said water-retentive filling material with

water, and a second step of adding said urethane prepolymer and said polyol to said first suspension and then stirring/mixing the resultant mixture to obtain a second suspension, said second suspension being reacted and cured to obtain the substrate.

[7] The method manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate according to any one of claims 4-6, wherein said suspension is reacted and cured within a substrate forming mold.

[8] The method manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate according to any one of claims 4-7, wherein said manufacturing is effected such that an upper face of the plant cultivating substrate may be located on the side of a bottom of said substrate forming mold.

[9] The method manufacturing a plant cultivating substrate according to any one of claims 4-8, wherein said water-retentive filling material contains at least one filling material selected from the group consisting of peat moss, coco peat, sawdust, coconut husk, chaff, chaff compost, bark compost, pearlite, vermiculite, and hydrophilic foam resin pulverized powder.

[10] A plant cultivating substrate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to any one of claims 4-9,

wherein the substrate has water absorptivity of from 25 to 75%, hardness of from 20 to 40N, and restoring force of from 4 to 10N.